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3 October 1963

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# South Vietnam SUMMARY



State Department review completed

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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GROUP 1  
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BACKGROUND USE ONLY

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THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

(Information as of 1000 EDT)

1. New Foreign Minister Truong Cong Cuu told Ambassador Lodge on 2 October that it would be impossible for Ngo Dinh Nhu to leave the country at present because this would be interpreted as a repudiation of the strategic hamlet program and Nhu's work with the Republican Youth Organization. Cuu explained that Nhu's departure must not appear to be a "humiliation or punishment."

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2. Professor Buu Hoi, head of the South Vietnamese observer delegation at the UN, told Assistant Secretary Hilsman Monday that Nhu's talents can not be spared at this time, but that his role in the regime might be narrowed. He urged the US to make specific reform proposals to Diem, suggesting in particular establishment of the office of prime minister, which would enable Diem to play more of a "distant ruler role," and the definition and limitation of Nhu's functions under some such title as "Government Planning Director."

3. UN Secretary General U Thant told a member of the US UN delegation Tuesday that he had the impression most sponsors of the draft resolution on South Vietnam "did not like the idea" of Saigon's proposed invitations to individuals from friendly Asian-African countries to visit South Vietnam to look into the Buddhist problem. U Thant agreed, however, that if the invitations were issued the draft resolution should be changed to reflect this fact.

Buu Hoi earlier had told Assistant Secretary Harlan Cleveland that he thought the visitors could make the trip and report their findings in about a month, and he hoped UN debate could be postponed until the observers returned.

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5. The South Vietnamese Embassy in Washington has informed the Department of State that Madame Nhu's US schedule calls for 10 television programs, six major press and public appearances, two private press interviews, and 11 engagements at universities throughout the country. Madame Nhu was to hold a press conference in Paris today.

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